

Governor Barbour is leading Mississippi to new heights of economic prosperity in a vastly improved business climate prompted by bold reforms in the state's civil justice system. His tort reforms have helped improve the quality of health care by keeping hospitals open and physicians in the state, and resulted in lower medical liability premiums, as well as generally leveling the civil justice playing field.

On the economic development front, more people are working in Mississippi and making more money. Many experts credit this to Governor Barbour's leadership in forcing state government to live within its means, keeping taxes low, revamping the state's economic development program so it can assist manufacturing and the service sector, and reforming education.

It's working. On February 27, Governor Barbour and officials of Toyota Motor Corporation announced that a \$1.3 billion auto assembly plant will be built in northeast Mississippi. The plant will employ 2,000 people and is likely to create thousands more jobs by attracting automotive suppliers.

To be sure, Mississippi is different today than on August 29, 2005, when the state was struck by the worst natural disaster in American history – Hurricane Katrina. Under Governor Barbour's leadership, more than \$24 billion of federal grant money has been allocated to Mississippi to help homeowners, businesses and communities recover from the storm. This money is helping build new houses and schools, rental properties, water and sewer systems, and roads and bridges. It is also opening up tremendous opportunities for new partnerships and business ventures.